

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04956 291928Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 IO-14
/091 W

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R 291732Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4635
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

UNCLAS LONDON 04956

E. O. NA
TAGS: UK NATO MPOL MILI
SUBJECT: GREENHAM COMMON

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY THROWN
UP BY OUR INTEREST IN REACTIVATION OF RAF GREENHAM
COMMON, FAIRFORD HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN NUMEROUS
PRESS ARTICLES AS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SITE. THE
DAILY TELEGRAPH OF 29 MARCH, UNDER THE HEADLINE
"COTSWOLD VILLAGES FIGHT U. S. AIR BASE OFFER," HAS
PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY COLIN RANDALL WHICH REPORTS
THAT AN ACTION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP BY COTSWOLDS
VILLAGERS OPPOSING THE USE OF FAIRFORD. TWO
CONSERVATIVE MPS (AWDRY, CHIPPENHAM AND MORRISON,
DEVIZES) HAVE WRITTEN TO MOD REQUESTING NO DECISION BE
MADE ABOUT FAIRFORD WITHOUT FULLEST CONSULTATION
WITH THE COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THEIR CONSTITUEN

2. COMMENT: MOD OFFICIALS HAVE DECLINED TO MAKE ANY
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STATEMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVE SITES TO GREENHAM COMMON
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FAIRFORD SITUATION. EARLIER
STATEMENTS BY MOD DID UNDERSCORE, HOWEVER, THAT NO
DECISION ON GREENHAM COMMON WOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT
CONSIDERING ALL OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS--MEANING, OF
COURSE, ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS. MOD HAS INFORMED THE
LOCAL COTSWOLDS AUTHORITIES NO APPLICATION TO USE

FAIRFORD HAS BEEN MADE BY USG. HOWEVER, HMG HAS TOLD THEM IT MUST ASSESS FAIRFORD ALONG WITH OTHER ALTERNATIVES IN LIGHT OF GREENHAM COMMON SITUATION AND MOD'S UNDERTAKING NOT TO MAKE A DECISION UNTIL FACTORS SURROUNDING OTHER SITES HAD BEEN CONSIDERED. IT IS NO SECRET, OF COURSE, THAT IN CERTAIN WHITEHALL QUARTERS FAIRFORD IS, AT PRESENT, THE FAVORED ALTERNATIVE SITE. BREWSTER

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